Nippon Times

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U.S. VANGUARDS PIERCE PORTION OF W. CHEMNITZ

German Outer Defenses Halt Enemy Advancing on Leipzig And Chemnitz

Domei

BERLIN, April 15.—Frontline reports said today that spearheads of the American 3rd army have penetrated into the western part of Chemnitz, the great industrial center of Saxony, located about 80 kilometers southwest of Dresden on the Elbe and south of Leipzig, and approached an imminent junction with the Red Army in eastern Saxony. Fuehrer's Headquarters communique reported increased violence in the defensive battle in central Germany and said that a relatively strong American battle group forced a crossing of the Saale River and thrust to the east. Formations advancing on Leipzig and Chemnitz were halted in the outer defense zones, however, it said.

An imminent contact of the American forces from the west and the Red Army from the east, in the meantime, is being considered by the German command which is endeavoring to prevent or at least postpone as long as possible its realization. It is observed, however, that one can not speak of a successful cutting off of northern and southern Germany even if the two armies should meet. The American forces which had advanced across Harz and Thuringia to the area of Leipzig and Chemnitz are far too weak and occupation of the rear areas is an immensely difficult task.

On the adjacent northern sector, meanwhile, the Elbe has been reached at some more points by speedy American units, but these points are regarded as not sufficiently strong as springboards for further operations into Brandenburg. Southeast of Magdeburg, Germany grenadiers yesterday threw back to their starting points the American units which had crossed the Elbe river.

11 Kms. From Leipzig

Domei

ZURICH, April 15.—Fierce street fighting developed in Chemnitz and units of the American 3rd and 1st armies further closed in on Leipzig and spearheads of the latter army are reported to be 11 kilometers from Leipzig, according to frontline report.

The left wing of the American 3rd army which penetrated into Saxony was reported astride the Mulde river and standing 23 kilometers southeast of Leipzig while the central force tipped by the 4th tank division yesterday drove into Chemnitz where they are presently engaged in fierce street fighting. The right wing of the same army, at the same time, crossed into Bavaria and closed in on Payreuth.

The American 1st army to the north beseiged Leipzig from Weissenfels, Merseburg and Halle and its spearhead was reported 11 kilometers from the city. Weissenfels fell into American hands and street fighting developed in Halle.

Within 20 Kilometers to Berlin

Domei

LISBON, April 14.—American spearhead units have already reached within a little over a 20 kilometer sphere of Berlin, according to a Luxembourg broadcast. However this has not yet been confirmed by the U.S. military authorities.

POUND NOTE WITHDRAWAL SET BY BANK OF ENGLAND

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 13.—The Bank of England has decided to withdraw all pound notes and bank notes of higher denomination, except £5 bank notes, which are an longer legal tender and can be redeemed only by the Central Bank directly, in order to effect exchange control and also to prevent black marketing, according to the Dagens Nyheter. Bank notes must be presented personally by the holder and cannot be sent for redemption by mail. This step is considered as having been taken for domestic purpose.

The prohibition on the import of bank notes is still in force, continues the report, and bank notes held abroad will be redeemed as soon as the import prohibition is cancelled.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the British financial result at the end of the budget year on March 31 indicates that the deficit amounted to £2,825,000,000 against £2,760,000,000 during the preceding year. However, the deficit is £11,000,000 less than the budget estimate due to income having risen by £200,000,000 to £3,238,000,000 while expenditure amounted to £6,058,000,000.

The unforeseen income of £133,000,000 came from income tax which attained £1,317,000,000. Consumption taxes and customs duties gave £35,000,000 extra. Surtax was £10,500,000 more than estimated, or £510,000,000 and inheritance tax with £111,000,000 comprised the surplus of £11,400,000.

Part of expenditure covered through real income rose to 5314 per cent against 5215 per cent during the preceding year. The budget deficit will be covered with loans and investments totalling £1,638,000,000 and short term borrowing of £1,183,000,000 against £826,000,000 last year.

Treasury bills increased by £532,000,000 to £3,681,000,000; treasury drafts by £470,000,000 to £1,859,000,000 and contribution from general funds by £181,000,000 to £576,000,000. Floating debts thus amount to £6,116,000,000 against £4,933,000,000 one year earlier.

However, diminished investment in war loans is an unfavorable feature of the general picture. The main reason is the need of trade and industry to acquire the greatest possible liquid means for reconversion to peace production. But only a very little part of those reserves can come to immediate use at the end of the European War. Not less than 42 per cent of the budget deficit must be covered with short term loans. This will bring about inflation danger if control of trade and industry should be liquidated before money surplus is absorbed through consolidated loans.

1,300 Yank Bombers Hit Reich Positions On Way to Bordeaux

Domei

ZURICH, April 15.—More than 1,300 American heavy bombers today attacked gun positions and areas defended by 35,000 German troops on both sides of the Gironde estuary where German pockets of resistance block the entrance to the Atlantic port of Bordeaux, according to frontline reports. All-out land, sea and air attacks to wipe out the German Gironde pocket on the west coast of France estimated to contain 100,000 Germans began today as the American bombers for the first time dropped tanks containing many gallons of inflammable liquid with effect similar to flame throwers used by the ground forces.

SOVIETS START OFFENSIVE IN AREA EAST OF BERLIN

Germans Destroy 98 Tanks in Grim Fighting Between Neisse and Oderbruch

Domei

BERLIN, April 15.—Red Army forces due east of Berlin have begun a big offensive. Yesterday, between the Neisse confluence and the Oderbruch, mainly in the area west of Kuestrin, the Soviets, strongly supported by tanks made numerous attacks. Late dispatches said that the Germans after grim fighting destroyed 98 of the attacking tanks and repelled the attacks.

Reds Take Sankt Polten

Domei

ZURICH, April 15.—Sankt Polten, 25 miles west of Vienna on the Vienna-Linz railroad, has been captured by the Red Army pressing westward south of the Danube, it was announced by Marshal Stalin in his order of the day today.

Meanwhile, further south on the Austrian border fighting against strong German opposition is reported to be raging along the line from a point southeast of Brno in Czechoslovakia to the Alpine valleys of Austria. As this line forms the frontline of the Germans' Bavarian mountain fortresses, resistance is terrific. Reports said the Germans have thrown three armored divisions into the battle and have made ten counterattacks in 24 hours.

At the nearest approaches to Berlin, meanwhile, Marshal Zhukov with powerful tank and infantry forces commenced new attacks yesterday on the Oder front. The Germans have admitted local breaches in the German positions due east of the German capital. German commentators suggest this is not a major thrust and so far Moscow has not confirmed that the Red Army has gone over to the offensive toward Berlin.

Hurley to Visit Moscow

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 15.—Major General Patrick Hurley, American Ambassador to Chungking, is expected to arrive in Moscow today or tomorrow for consultation with Ambassador Harriman en route back to Chungking after conferences in Washington and London, according to a Moscow dispatch.

ROOSEVELT IS BURIED

Body Is Laid to Rest in Garden of Hyde Park Residence

Domei

LISBON, April 15.—The body of President Roosevelt was laid to rest this morning in the garden between the family home and the Franklin D. Roosevelt library at Hyde Park, New York in the presence of the family, a large delegation of officials and massed ranks of servicemen, according to a Hyde Park dispatch.

The funeral cortege entered the estate to the muffled sound of the black crepe covered drums. The coffin covered with the stars and stripes was drawn on a black gun carriage by seven horses. Immediately behind walked Mrs. Roosevelt and her daughter Mrs. Anna Boettinger with her husband. The coffin was lowered into the grave to the echo of three volleys of shots fired by four cadets from West Point.

MOLOTOV WILL ATTEND SAN FRANCISCO PARLEY

Soviet Foreign Commissar to Head Delegation Instead of Envoy Gromyko

Domei

LISBON, April 15.—The White House today announced that Marshal Stalin had advised President Harry S. Truman that Vyacheslav M. Molotov, Soviet Foreign Commissar, will represent the Soviet Government at the San Francisco Conference, according to a Washington dispatch. Heretofore the Soviet plan was for Soviet Ambassador Gromyko to head the Soviet delegation and other major Powers were to be represented at foreign minister level.

The report added that Truman has directed William Harriman, U.S. Ambassador to Moscow, to assure Stalin that the coming of Molotov "would be welcomed as an expression of earnest cooperation in carrying forward the plans for the formation of a new internationl organization as laid down by President Roosevelt and considered by the Yalta Conference."

Invited by Truman

Statement from the White House says that President Truman directed Ambassador Harriman, at Moscow to tell Marshal Stalin that the presence of Molotov would be welcomed at the conference.

The statement said his presence will be welcomed both as an expression of earnest cooperation in carrying forward plans for formulating the new international organizations as laid down by President Roosevelt and confirmed by the Yalta Conference. Stalin then sent word that Molotov would attend. Previously, Stalin had designated Andrei Gromkyo as the Soviet representative at the conference.

The Associated Press said that the sending of Molotov is reported in Washington as an extraordinary demonstration of friendship on the part of the Soviet Union toward the U.S. Government under Truman.

TRUMAN 33RD PRESIDENT

Settles Old Dispute by Calling Roosevelt 32nd Chief Executive

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 16.—Harry S. Truman has settled the question of whether he is the 32nd or 33rd President of the United States. The new chief executive, in his proclamation issued upon assuming office, referred to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt as the 32nd President, thus making himself the 33rd, according to a Washington dispatch.

This move settles, at least for the present, the long-standing argument whether Grover Cleveland, the 22nd President, should be counted twice or once since he left the White House for four years and then returned for another term. Actually, therefore there have been 31 men who have held the nation's highest office before the 33rd President.

Secretary of State Stettinius, the same dispatch explains, is next in line for the presidency in the event of Truman's death according to the long line of succession provided by Congress. After the Secretary of State, in this order, comes the Secretary of Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Navy and last, the Secretary of the Interior.

The same report revealed that President Truman will receive a $60,000 boost in salary. The Chief executive's salary, heretofore, had been fixed at $75,000 per year.

Secret Blood Brotherhoods Organized In Germany to Avenge Crimes of Enemy

In order to wreak their vengeance against the enemy who is now committing all manners of crimes in the regions of Germany he has come to occupy, the German people have begun to organize themselves into blood brotherhoods, revealed a Berlin dispatch of April 10 in the Mainichi.

A Reuter dispatch reported on March 28 that the Mayor of Aachen had been assassinated. On March 30 the German newspapers came out with a story of how the German court brought into being to uphold the honor of the Reich, had sentenced to death by shooting a man who had betrayed Germany. It was further reported that the whole family of the executed Mayor had been blasted to pieces by a bomb placed in the residence.

Then reports of murders in occupied Germany followed in quick succession. On Easter, April 1, a special German radio broadcast made clear the nature of the murders which had taken place. The world was told that the murders were the work of the Werwolf Corps formed in occupied Germany by Germans who had decided that persons making themselves helpful to the enemy in any way should be punished.

Soon after, reports from enemy sources told of citizens rising up against the occupation army in Frankfurt, Offenbach, and Ashaffenburg, of murders committed by the members of the Werwolf Corps hidden in the forests in the neighborhood of Lippstadt and Paderborn, of the 45th American Division engaged in a severe fight with the Werwolves, of how the men in the van of the 3rd American Tank Division met with a party of girl-sharpshooters at Cassel, and of how on the fifth of the month an American General was assassinated at Paderborn.

Begin Earnest Work

These reports proved that the enemy was ready to admit that the blood brotherhoods, formed by Germans seeking to wreak vengeance on the enemy, had set about the work of getting even with their enemies in earnest.

The introduction of a new factor reminiscent of the Middle Ages in the form of the Human Wolf Corps, an organization of patriotic Germans bent on fighting the enemy with handy weapons, into the European war situation at a time when it is entering the stage where it is to be decided once for all brings a new sort of terror and weirdness into the war.

When the German authorities were approached for detailed information about the Human Wolf Corps, they gave the following story of the organization through which the Germans are now giving expression to the feeling of hatred they have for the enemy:

A secret patriotic society was formed by Germans in the Rhineland with the purpose of causing trouble to the authorities responsible for the administration of the territory at the time the French occupied it in the first Great War. It was through this organization that the Germans carried on the fight with the enemy, working in the darkness of night, so to speak, without the knowledge of the world at large, and history ignored this organization for the spilling of the blood of the enemy of Germany for 17 years.

The spirit which actuated the members of this secret society of patriotic Germans had a revival, which led to the organization of the Human Wolf Corps, whose members have a raging desire to bleed the enemy who without the least scruples is perpetrating all manner of crimes in that portion of the Reich it has occupied.

Spirit of State Socialism

The blood brotherhood of the Human Wolf Corps owes its existence to the spirit of State Socialism which is pulsating throughout Germany, and at the same time to the profound resentment felt by the Germans at the shockingly inhuman way in which the enemy is administering the German territory it has occupied.

Here is a list of some of the acts of the authorities in occupied Germany which are to blame for the situation that led to the birth of the Human Wolf Corps:

All Germans in occupied Germany are confined in underground rooms and none of them are allowed to go out of doors except for two hour "outs" for procuring water. The occupation authorities have seized all the houses which have escaped destruction in the course of fighting and confined the residents in buildings where they must live under conditions that have nothing to distinguish them from those of life in prison.

The residents have been left without provisions, for they have been either looted or seized by the occupation authorities. There is a system of rationing by means of tickets, but that is only in name. No endeavor is made to see that it is put into force. Consequently, residents are near starvation. In Cologne epidemics of vicious diseases are raging.

There is a complete paralysis of the means of transport in occupied Germany where the trains, streetcars, and automobiles have been confiscated by the occupation authorities.

In Syncopic State

As to the economic life of the residents, it is in a syncopic state. The technicians and skilled workers in occupied Germany have been either pressed into service by the occupation authorities or have been shot to death. As for the other capable or able-bodied persons in the territory, they have been taken to French territory where they are forced to work for the enemy.

As regards the women and children, they are put by the occupation authorities to the work of cleaning the latrines used only by the black men in the anti-Axis forces.

The occupation authorities make short work of shooting to death those residents who are reluctant to obey their orders or place themselves at their disposal or who do not observe the harsh rules made by the authorities responsible for the administration of occupied Germany. Great piles of bodies of persons who have been shot to death by the occupation authorities are to be seen in the streets.

A conservative estimate puts the number of women who have been assaulted by anti-Axis soldiers in occupied Germany at 800,000. These unfortunate women number only half of the entire American army in Germany. Apparently there is no end of such shameless acts.

Such then are the conditions that exist among the residents in occupied Germany. Small wonder that they, acting of their own volition, and without waiting to hear from the German authorities, should have elected to band themselves in order to get revenge upon he enemy.

Members of All Ages

Among the persons who joined the Human Wolf Corps when it was first formed, were old men and women, some of whom were 70 years, and boys and girls of less than 10.

The weapons used by the members of this underground patriotic organization of desperate men and women are in the main revolvers, automatic rifles, hand-grenades, mines, and bombs. Some of these weapons are German-made while others belonged to the enemy before they fell into the hands of their present owners.

The Human Wolf Corps has a headquarters from whence comes orders to the numerous units into which the Corps is divided. There is also a law court under the jurisdiction of the Corps.

The members know absolutely nothing about the way in which the Corps works. They know only the number by which they themselves are known, and beyond that they have little knowledge of their own organization. They even have no idea of the persons under whose supervision they belong.

The record of the headquarters of the Corps leaves no doubt about the truly big scale on which the Corps is operating. The radio, messenger, and indeed, all means of communication are used in establishing contacts between the headquarters and the numerous branches of the Corps. Needless to say, all communications that pass between the headquarters and the branches are, for the most part, by word of mouth. Some are, however, by slips of paper in cipher while a few are by signal bombs.

Time alone will reveal the man who is at the head of the Human Wolf Corps which has come to strike terror into the hearts of any Germans who feel the slightest disposition of friendliness toward the enemy which has set foot and now occupies a part of the German land.

BURMA ENEMY SMASHED

Nippon Planes Attack Mechanized Units Near Yamethin

Domei

BURMA FRONT, April 15.—Japanese Air Units, on the morning of April 12, furiously attacked the enemy mechanized force which had penetrated the vicinity of Yamethin in Central Burma and scored accurate hits on enemy vehicles heading the invading column. In the course of the attack, the Japanese set ablaze five vehicles including tanks and one ammunition dump while more than 55 vehicles including tanks were crippled.

55 B-29'S BROUGHT DOWN AS S.W. KEIHIN AREA HIT

Over 50 Others Damaged in Furious Counteroffensive Says I.H.Q.

Japanese Anti-Air Raid Units shot down 55 B-29 bombers and damaged more than 50 others in counter-attacking a large formation of Mariana-based enemy planes numbering about 200 that raided the southwestern part of the Keihin district for about two and a half hours from 10:30 p.m. on April 15, the Imperial Headquarters announced at 4 p.m. on Monday.

Considerable fires occurred in the city areas as a result of the enemy's indiscriminate bombing attack but were brought under control by 5 a.m. on April 16, the same communique stated.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
4 p.m. April 16

"Approximately 200 B-29 bombers raided the southwestern part of the Keihin district for about two and a half hours from 10:30 p.m. on April 15.

"As a result of the indiscriminate bombing attack considerable fires broke out in the city areas but were practically extinguished by about 5 a.m. of the following day.

"Of the battle results obtained by our Anti-Air Raid Forces, those that have become known up to the present follow:

Shot Down ..... 55 Planes
Damaged More than 50 Planes."

Lemay Demands More B-29's

Domei

LISBON, April 14.—Major General Curtis Lemay, Commander of the 21st Bomber Command in a press interview today said that more B-29's were needed to destroy Japanese industry and that the use of fighter planes from bases in Yiojima to escort the B-29's had a special purpose which cannot be disclosed for military reasons, according to a Guam dispatch. He further stated that ample proof had already been obtained that the purpose of the fighter plane operation was being accomplished.

AID FOR AIR RAID VICTIMS

Food, Travel Tickets and Free Medical Care Set

Tokyo Metropolitan authorities issued the following instructions to air raid victims on Saturday morning:

Air raid victims are qualified to receive various kinds of protection and relief without air raid certificates. They are requested not to mix up the tickets for free distribution, of the five-day ration of rice, miso, shoyu, and other foodstuffs, with air raid certificates. Tickets for foodstuffs will be distributed at city, town, and village offices. Those who are wounded in air raids are qualified to receive free medical treatment in accordance with the Wartime Accident Relief Law. Such persons are requested to inform city, town and, village offices about their conditions.

Free Travel

The Transportation and Communications Ministry has decided to issue traveling certificates to air raid victims which qualify them to ride on trains free of charge from Saturday to Monday. After Tuesday, air raid special certificates are required for free trips. For the time being, train tickets will be limited to those traveling on important business.

Suzuki Inspects Raided Areas

Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki accompanied by his secretary Hajime Suzuki and Jiro Fujita, Chief of the Guard Section of the Metropolitan Police, inspected the areas devastated by enemy air raids on Sunday afternoon. Later on the same day, at the observation post at Asukayama, he heard reports on enemy raids by Kingo Machimura, Chief of the Metropolitan Police.

Koiso Leaves for Kansai

General Kuniaki Koiso, former Prime Minister, Juichi Tsushima, former Finance Minister and Taketora Ogata, former Minister without Portfolio left Tokyo Station Sunday night to worship at the Grand Shrines of Ise, Kashihara Shrine, Unebi Mausoleum, Momoyama Mausoleums and the Atsuta Shrine, and to report on their resignations. They are scheduled to return to Tokyo Wednesday.

Manchou Emperor Expresses Sympathy To Imperial Family

Domei

HSINKING, April 15.—His Majesty, the Emperor of Manchoukuo graciously sent a telegram on Friday night expressing concern and sympathy to His Majesty the Emperor and to Her Majesty the Empress Dowager on receipt of the news of the fire caused to a part of the Imperial Palace, the Omiya Palace, the Akasaka Detached Palace and the Meiji Shrine at the time of the enemy raid on the metropolis on Friday.

U.S. LAND FORCES CHECKED IN SOUTH OKINAWA SECTOR

24th Division Under Hodges Unable to Advance Single Step, Yanks Admit

Domei

LISBON, April 14.—The Japanese Army Special Attack Corps are busy attacking the American fleet in the Okinawa area, on land the enemy is unable to make any progress.

In an announcement made today, Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, simply stated that a unit of the 24th division repulsed furious Japanese attacks at dawn yesterday, according to a Guam dispatch.

Furthermore, an Associated Press special correspondent, comments that the fact the 24th division under Lieutenant General Courtney Hodges has not been able to advance even one step on land in the southern part of the Okinawa Islands shows how severe the fighting in this area is. He added that yesterday was the 11th day since the commencement of the greatest artillery battle in the Pacific.

Kamikaze Attack Described

Domei

LISBON, April 14.—The United States Navy Office, which had maintained strict silence concerning the Kamikaze Special Attack Corps, issued a statement to the press yesterday, says an Associated Press report from Washington.

"The first Japanese Kamikaze Special Attack Corps attacks were seen during the Leyte operations in the Philippines six months ago," says the statement. "Since then such attacks have been continued against American fleet units in the Lingayen Bay, Yiojima and Okinawa operations. It has been noted that the first objectives of these air units are large-type warships, after attacking which the special attack units aim for the smaller ships. AP correspondent Marlin Spencer adds to the Navy Office statement, saying, "They have inflicted losses on American fleet units and killed and injured American officers and men. During the Ormoc Bay operations Japanese Air Units appeared in large formations. This was the first time that Japanese Air Units attacked on a large scale. The attack was launched only 2 hours after the American 77th Division commenced landing operations in Ormoc Bay. A little before 9 a.m. anti-aircraft shell bursts were seen out westwards over the sea. Next we saw Japanese aircraft dive-bombing, but we saw none of them rise again. A few seconds later, grayish smoke was seen rising. Half an hour later one Japanese plane passed overhead. The plane did not seem to take any notice of the fierce anti-aircraft fire from the American warships. The Japanese plane came diving at a shallow angle, and neither dropped bombs nor fired machine-guns. It was clear that it was out to ram. When the plane was but a short distance from its target an American shell seemed to hit it, for it burst into flames. It was too late, however, for the plane crashed right into an American warship."

NIPPON ATTACKS FIERCE

Domei

LISBON, April 15.—Attacks by the Japanese suicide planes on the American invasion fleet lying off Okinawa was described today by John Henry, International News correspondent, from aboard Admiral Turner's flagship.

On April 12 the sky off the island of Okinawa was spotted with Japanese aircraft in self-destruction efforts to sink the American vessels and later reports said that suicide attacks were resumed again on Friday.

Scores of "bogeys," he said, closed in on the American convoy during pre-dawn hours, and plunging down on the patrol screen of American naval vessels sank a destroyer and damaged other small warships. The attacks continued until almost dusk and were as determined as any the Japanese has carried out.

22 MORE WARCRAFT IN OKINAWA WATERS LOST BY U.S. FORCES

Japanese Planes Continue Pounding Invader Fleet Imperial Headquarters Bares

In their unending offensive operations, Japanese Air Forces again sank or damaged 22 American warcraft including one plane carrier, two battleships, two cruisers, 14 warships of unidentified category and others in the waters around the main Okinawa Island on and after April 12, the Imperial Headquarters announced in its communique issued at 4 p.m. on Monday.

Despite sustaining heavy losses, the invasion forces in the southern part of the main Okinawa Island are fully preparing for a new offensive, which, however, is being frustrated by the Japanese Forces, the communique also revealed, adding that fighting on the Motobu Peninsula has become intensified.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
4 p.m. April 16

"1—The enemy forces in the southern part of the main Okinawa Island have sustained tremendous blows due to our counterattacks but now appear to be preparing for a further offensive.

"Our Forces stationed there are continuously smashing the enemy's offensive plan by gunfire and shock action.

"Of the losses inflicted upon the enemy in the said area on and after April 12 up to April 15 those which have become known total about 1,700 men.

"Fighting in the Motobu Peninsula area is gradually being intensified.

"2—Our Air Forces are vigorously attacking the enemy warships and task forces around the main Okinawa Island without respite.

"Of the war results achieved by our side in the attacks on and after April 12, those that have become known up to the present follow:

SUNK
1 Aircraft Carrier
2 Cruisers
1 Cruiser or Transport
1 Destroyer
1 Transport
1 Warship of Unidentified Category

DAMAGED
2 Battleships
13 Warships of Unidentified Category."

Okinawa Sea Toll Rises

Imperial Japanese Air Forces again blasted 22 American warcraft around the main Okinawa Island, as was announced by the Imperial Headquarters, thus bringing the result to a total of 348 sunk or damaged in the short period of less than one month since March 23.

Meanwhile, the ground battle on the main Okinawa Island, particularly in the Motobu Peninsula, has become intensified day after day.

In less than two weeks, the American invasion forces have suffered a loss of about 8,000 killed or wounded besides losing numerous surface craft, in the landing operations in the Southwestern Islands area.

The composite war results obtained by the Japanese Air and Sea Forces off the main Okinawa Island from March 23 up to April 13 are as follows:

	Sunk	Sunk or damaged	Dam-aged	Tot.
Aircraft carriers	4	2	6	12
Converted carriers	3	0	1	4
Battleships	7	1	7	15
Large warships	6	5	11	22
Battleships or cruisers	0	1	12	13
Battleship or transport	1	0	0	1
Cruisers	36	0	16	52
Cruisers or destroyers	6	0	2	8
Cruiser or transport	1	0	1	2
Destroyers	29	0	22	51
Transports	19	0	25	44
Land'g transports	18	0	0	18
Warships of unidentified category	53	0	46	99
Minesweepers	4	0	2	6
Plane carrier or oil tanker	0	0	1	1
Torpedo-boats	0	0	2	2
Grand total	185	9	154	348

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The Extension of the American Lend-Lease Law

The United States Congress passed and sent to the White House on April 10 the bill providing for the extension by another year, until June 30, 1946, of the American Lend-Lease Act, states a Washington dispatch. This bill which was approved by the House of Representatives recently after it had attached an amendment specifying that Lend-Lease aid must be for "military use only" passed the Senate by a narrow margin of one vote.

The significance of this bill is not in the fact that it was passed at all but in the amendment which the House of Representatives has seen fit to append to it. The phase providing that the American Lend-Lease assistance must be for "military use only" was clearly inserted by the Lower House as a precaution against Lend-Lease materials being sent to Britain to aid in her economic revival. When the bill was sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, there was also a similar apprehension that the Lend-Lease materials might be employed for other than war purposes. The Senate Committee, therefore, approved the one-year extension of the Lend-Lease Act together with the House amendment specifying that the Lend-Lease goods are for "military use only." The Senate Committee decided not to make further amendments to this Act after Administrator Leo Crowley of the Foreign Economic Administration had assured the Committee that his Lend-Lease subsidiary has no intention and no authority to make commitments for postwar relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of war-torn European countries.

This amendment, as well as the discussions which took place in the United States since the fall of last year and on the floor of the Congress this year, provide a graphic illustration of the jealousies and rivalry of the Anglo-American countries in the economic field. At the time the Lend-Lease Act was first introduced into Congress, American Congressmen as well as the American public did not raise much opposition to its passage on economic grounds as the bill was ostensibly designed to assist Britain and her allies in their war against Germany. However, in August of last year when it was alleged that Britain had requested the American Government for the extension of Lend-Lease assistance for the rehabilitation of Britain's internal economy, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Chamber of Commerce, the New York Herald Tribune, the New York Journal of Commerce and other representatives of powerful economic groups in the United States raised bitter opposition against the British request.

The reason for this change in the attitude of the American industrial and economic groups and large sections of the American people is obvious. They feared that Britain which is today the most serious competitor of the United States for postwar world markets might use Lend-Lease aid in rebuilding and re-equipping her factories devastated in the war. Nor had the American people forgotten how Britain had unscrupulously re-labelled American Lend-Lease goods as British-made wares and re-exported them to her overseas markets earlier in the war in her effort to prevent these markets from falling into the hands of the United States.

To influence American public opinion, however, into extending economic assistance under the Lend-Lease Act for the reconstruction of British industries, the British Government issued in November of last year the classic document known as the British White Paper on Britain's economic bankruptcy. This document contained sixty pages of statistical data, supposedly showing Britain's general economic collapse. To allay the suspicions of the American industrialists and exporters who fear that Britain may become their serious trade rival in the postwar period, the British White Paper asserted that Britain had lost two-thirds of her prewar shipping tonnage, that her exports had fallen by seventy per cent, and that her overseas assets had been exhausted. Sir John Anderson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his speech of October last year, even intimated to the United States that, without American Lend-Lease aid, Britain might be forced to remain off the gold standard and that she might be unable to fulfill her responsibilities under the Bretton Woods agreement.

But these tearful appeals and sly intimations, however, did not deceive the realistic American industrialists and financiers. They knew that Britain has a huge accumulation of blocked sterling balances of foreign nations which will be very useful in her postwar foreign trade, that she is enlarging her sterling area, that British manufacturers are able to produce some export products much cheaper than American industries, and that the British merchant marine, despite the heavy losses incured at the hands of German submarines, still remains a potent factor in the revival of British postwar trade. These cold facts were, of course, carefully omitted from the British White Paper but were not lost sight of by American exporters. But a no less important factor which may have been at the bottom of the Congressional opposition toward the extention of Lend-Lease aid to Britain for other than military purposes was perhaps the American people's traditional jealousy and suspicion of Britain.

The passage of this amended Lend-Lease Act creates new problems in Anglo-American economic relations. One of these problems is the question of British loans from the United States. As the Lend-Lease Act provides that Lend-Lease materials are for war purposes only, Britain must obviously pay cash for any purchases of equipment and other materials to be used in the restoration of her internal economy. But here is Britain's difficulty. She is not only short of dollar exchange but the Johnson Act passed by the United States Congress forbids loans to any nation which had defaulted on the payment of its last World War debts to the United States. It is evident, therefore, that the coming months will witness another flare-up of the traditional Anglo-American economic rivalry if Britain should apply for large loans from the United States or should try to influence in any way the repeal of the Johnson Act.

A Year Ago Today
April 17, 1944

A total of 218 enemy planes, consisting of bombers and fighters attempted to attack Rabaul, New Britain Island. Japanese Units on the spot immediately went into action and shot down nine raiders and damaged three with anti-aircraft gunfire. The rest of the raiders were repelled. Damage on the Japanese side was negligible.

• • •

Japanese Forces stationed on Wotje Island downed one medium-sized plane when they intercepted a formation of 39 enemy bombers and fighters that attacked our position in two waves in the morning. Due to the furious anti-aircraft gunfire opened up by the Japanese, all the raiders were forced to flee before they could carry out any effective attack.

• • •

Japanese Units in the Kei Islands area shot down one enemy plane out of a formation of 18 four-engined aircraft that attempted to attack our position in the morning. The Japanese succeeded in routing all the raiders. No damage was reported on our side.

• • •

Imperial Japanese Air Units in the Burma area controlling the air over the Imphal Plains shot down 41 enemy planes, including three probables, and also attacked the Palel airfield blasting the military installations, it was announced.

ABS POWERS AND WEST ASIA

America Makes Bid for Oil Resources

By TOMOHIDE NAITO
(From Contemporary Japan)

V

Of late, the United States has been making a bold bid for obtaining oil concessions in West Asia. This has caused serious concern to both Britain and the Soviet Union. In the prewar days, American oil interests secured oil concessions in the Bahrein Islands where they were actually engaged in working oil-fields. They also concluded an oil concession contract with King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia and thus secured exploiting rights over a large tract in Al Hasha and other districts. These oil centres are now being worked. In the prewar days, too, America obtained a share in the Iraq Oil Company in Mosul, while the Standard Oil Company secured concessions in eastern Iran and Afghanistan. Since the eventuation of the current global war, the United States has obtained oil concessions in the Sinai peninsula and is reported to be negotiating for oil concessions with the Turkish Government. Apparently, she has sponsored her West Asia oil drive in understanding with Britain. On the part of the latter, she has been obliged to form a joint front in West Asia with the United States in order to check the ascendancy of Soviet influence. Though the United States is a newcomer in West Asia, she is nevertheless very much interested in creating her own sphere of influence there. It is unthinkable that either the Soviet Union or Britain would permit the creation of an American sphere of influence in West Asia, especially when the region is strategically important to the security of the southern border territories of the Soviet Union and to the retention of British sway in India.

America Seeks Control

It is true that a strong section of the American public is against the meddling of the United States in the affairs of West Asia. It is again equally true that the American authorities on the spot inclusive of the servicemen and economic and other American missions in conjunction with American capitalists are making energetic efforts to stabilize American influence in West Asia and thereby force the American Government and the people to accept it as a concrete reality. Already the United States has encroached upon the spheres of influence of Britain and the Soviet Union, which nations consequently have become suspicious of her West Asia move. It appears that the United States is not only interested in securing oil concessions, but also in acquiring mining, agricultural, industrial and commercial privileges. To sum up, America seeks to become a potential competitor of Britain and the Soviet Union in West Asia. All these conflicting interests have made the ABS Powers pursue unilateral activities even though the semblance of a joint front is being maintained by the Anglo-American nations.

In the prewar days, the United States was unable to find a lucrative market for Bahrein oil on account of the freight rate and commercial difficulties and competition with Anglo-Dutch oil. Early this year, the American oil interests, realizing that they will face the same difficulties in the postwar period, persuaded Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Petroleum Co-ordinator, to propose the construction of an oil-pipe line from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean via Arabia. Secretary Ickes in making the proposal announced that the oil resources in America would be exhausted within the next fourteen or fifteen years. On February 22 the chairman of the Oil Research Committee questioned his announcement and declared that the American industries would be able to depend on oil produced at home for a very long time to come. He then added that the American oil deposits were estimated at 20,000,000,000 barrels, and that there were enormous coal deposits, the source of synthetic oil. Moreover, the Ickes proposal became the target of severe criticisms both in the United States and the British Empire. According to it, a system of oil-pipes is to be built as a Government undertaking at an estimated cost of some $200,000,000 after concluding the required agreements with those countries through which the pipes will run.

(To Be Concluded)

Just the Right Thing

Tramp: "The lady next door has given me a piece of home-made cake. Won't you give me somethin' too?"

Lady: "Yes, I'd better you a digestive tablet."

That's Love

"You say that Gaybird loves his wife more since she sued another woman for alienation of affections?"

"yes, he never suspected before that his wife considered his affections worth $100,000."

CONFUSION IN FRANCE

De Gaullist Government Has No Basis in Will for Resistance Of French People

By ISAMU INOUYE

II

Against such a growing hostility and aggression of the Communist Party, De Gaulle has been resorting to a series of mollifying measures such as to pardon the head of the Communist Party Maurice Thorez, who had deserted the French Army and gone to Moscow and who had been sentenced by default to a six-year imprisonment and to appoint him a member of the Consultating Assembly; to appoint Andre Malque, a communist, to the vice-presidency of the same Assembly; to appoint the widow of another Communist Gabriel Perril as a member of the secretariat. But such lukewarm measures failed to please the Communist Party. Moreover, the French Socialist Party which has been on a decline since the defeat of France is being pushed by its younger members to allign itself with Communism. It has been reported at its meeting on November 10, that Vincent Oriel, who was Finance Minister under the Blum Peonle's Front Cabinet, proposed to the party's amalgamation with the Communist Party. It is only too natural that the Communists should be glowing with their victory.

The De Gaullist Government has no basis in the will of the French people for its existence. While Marshal Petain was a distinguished hero of the French nation and an elder statesman, De Gaulle has no personal asset, having been raised to his present position by the assistance of foreign nations, and his political success is largely accidental. If a national election were held at present, there is no doubt as to the sweeping victory which the Communist Party will gain over the De Gaullist Government. Thus, De Gaulle must firmly establish his political foundation if only for his own self-preservation before the national election. His diplomatic stunt walking on a rope with the support of the Anglo-Americans on the one hand and that of the Soviet Union on the other comes from this personal necessity of his. The News Chronicle of London stated the other day that France should give up the idea of an independent diplomatic policy, but De Gaulle is attempting to secure the independence of his diplomaitc policies by means of playing on the Anglo-Americans against the Soviet Union. On the occasion of Churchill's visit to Paris in November, he presented De Gaulle a chair in the Anti-Axis European Advisory Commission. But his task as a member of this commission is to show his diplomatic skill in coping with the problem of reconciling Britains Western European bloc plan and the Soviet Union's continental bloc plan.

Soviet Kindly Toward France

Although the Soviet Union occupied such countries as Finland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Poland, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Hungary and has been challenging Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Sweden, she has been quite kindly at least on the surface toward France and has been treating the French Communist Party as a goody boy. But the Kremlin gave De Gaulle a gentle hint of her strong hand policy protesting on November 10 De Gaulle's mistreatment of the Soviet war prisoners in France.

The second problem faced by the French Communist Party is more pressing than the first problem already noted. It is a question more basic than the question of the internal resistance troops; it is the question of its own existence.

Since its Algiers Committee days, the De Gaulle Government has been adovocating the nationalization of all important industries; and, of course, in this policy the Government stole the thunder of the French Communist Party which was the supporting pillar of that government at that time. The De Gaulle Government has been trying to carry out this industrial policy steadfastly since that time, so that, as far as its economic and industrial policies are concerned, the Paris Government seems to be, branch of the Moscow Government, and there is absolutely no opposition in this respect between the position of De Gaulle and that of the French Communists. The only difference between the two is that De Gaulle has been more lukewarm than the Communists in carrying out the policy of industrial nationalization. As it is, many plants in the provinces have been already placed under the direct control of Communist workers and the number of such factories has been increasing. Although the ideal aim of the Communists is to bring about the national management of all industries, in actuality it is not averse to a temporary entry of private capital At present, the Communist Party has been supporting the Government's policy to place important industries under the trinity control of the State, capital and labor. At the same time, it has been encouraging the Government to confiscate as many plants as possible for the purpose of nationalization and of driving out private capitalism from the industrial field, under the pretext that those plants had cooperated with Germany during the period of German occupation.

The present industrial policy of the De Gaulle Government may be seen in its decree issued on November 1, providing for the establishment of an administrative committee for every industrial plant having 100 or more workers in which labor representatives are to participate and which is to be the organ of decision for industrial management.

An article published by the American magazine Time in its issue of October 9 gives a glimpse of the industrial conditions of France. It is to the following effect:

"The French Government last week confiscated at the demand of the resistance groups one of the greatest industrial plants of France Renauld Automobile Plant. This was followed by the nationalization of coal pits in Pas de Calais and north France. The Government has announced its intention of placing more than 50 industrial plants under government administration. According to the Minister of Information, this act is not intended as an act of confiscation but as a temporary measure for the restoration of French industry. The newspapers of the resistance groups are saying such industrial measures are not sufficient and are demanding more drastic steps to be taken.

Renauld Is Imprisoned

"Louis Renauld, owner of the Renauld Plant, has been imprisoned (he died in prison toward the close of October), but the fate of others, for instance, of Andre Citroen, second greatest automobile manufacturer of France, is gravely in doubt. While the people of the resistance groups assert that he cooperated with Germany, he has been flatly denying the charge saying that as soon as the German forces entered France he dispersed the skilled laborers of his plant over the country districts in order to make cooperation with Germany impossible of accomplishment.

"On the other hand, the representatives of the resistance groups in eleven prefectures in France have recently met and resolved that the Government should liquidate the irregular troops, declaring that they themselves represent the French people and are determined to protect the interests of the people.

"In the absence of more detailed information, it is impossible to judge whether or not such a radical intervention on industrial enterprises by the French State is unavoidable; and indeed it is possible that there may be facts which are opposed to the known facts. However, the foregoing facts are sufficiently strong to indicate the direction of the economic policy of France.

"According to his announcement, De Gaulle is intending to adopt planned economy but it is certain that whether such a policy will succeed will depend on whether his Government is capable of enforcing discipline among the workers.

"Perhaps, the French workers may have learned the deleterious effects of the left-wing policies on industrial production by their latest experience at the time of the Popular Front and thus they may not repeat their mistake.

"Another important problem for France is to establish a balance between the just demand for the punishment of those who cooperated with Germany and the safeguarding of productive output against the disastrous effects of the means adopted for that purpose."

But the fact is that the real state of affairs in France has not been progressing in accordance with the anticipation and wishes of such magazines as Time which detests the Soviets or the London Economist.

In the last analysis, it is because of its desire to keep weapons in its hand that the French Communist Party is making so much fuss about the problem of disbanding the internal resistance troops, since the party considers such possession of military weapons essential for the Sovietization of France.

The activities of the republican army on the Spanish borders have somewhat cooled down in recent weeks but, since the Soviet Union has publicly announced its intention of destroying the Franco Government, such affairs have ceased to be something on which the French Communist Party can be unconcerned. As it is the De Gaulle Government does not wish to be mixed us in with Spain at the present time. In agreement with both the United States and Britain, the Paris Government is willing to compromise with the Franco Government. But the French Communist Party is ready to take up arms at the command of Moscow and is paying no attention to the existence of the De Gaulle Government.

(End)

U.S. PROPAGANDA

Even Intelligent People Taken In By Ruse

Research for this article by Alfred Romain in the XXth Century, was begun by the author in the U.S.A., where his work involved the observing and analyzing of American public opinion and its manipulation.

IV

Among the propaganda methods that go to build up confidence and good will for the American press is the "fair play" device. It is common practice with American newspapers and radio stations to stage demonstrations of "fairness" to prove that both sides of the issue are represented and have an even chance of making their point. During election campaigns, newspapers often give equal space to both candidates although pledged to one party. In the foreign field, too, the "fair play" device is used notably by The New York Times, which at one time printed the daily communiques of all beligerents and occasionally publishes quite objective reports about countries it otherwise violently opposses. The result is that even well-educated and intelligent Americans are apt to be taken in by this method, so that every now and again such newspapers can afford to put over misrepresentations or even downright lies.

This method is often used in conjunction with the "quotation" device, which serves to create and support an appearance of objectivity and authority. During the Great War, any of the propaganda pamphlets issued by the Committee on Public Information in America used this method to lend authority to their claims and veil the propagandistic nature of their products. Largely or solely composed of quotations were such notorious pamphlets as "Conquest and Kultur" and "German War Practices," which were spread in editions of one or two millions throughout America and abroad. During the present war, too, many American propaganda books and pamphlets have adopted this technique.

Some Details Are Correct

In order to make his propaganda stories plausible, the American propagandist employs the "accurate details" device, the technique of which consists in giving as many accurate or seemingly accurate names, figures, places, and other details as possible, with the implication that the rest of the story is just as accurate and reliable. Looking over atrocity stories of the first and second World Wars, one is amazed at the brazen use of this technique, which made the purest fabrications and lies plausible to millions of Americans. Quoted and documented as a lie by Lord Ponsonby in his "Falsehood in Wartime" is the following propaganda story, a perfect example of the "accurate details" device:

"... It was on October 23, 1918, that our detachment, the Fifth Marines, Second Division, entered Suippes, situated north of Chalons and west of the Argonnes Forest, the village having just been evacuated by the Germans. There we found a naked girl nailed to a barn door. In addition about half of the coffins in the village churchyard had been opened, apparently with the idea of despoiling them.

Due to the accurate details in the first part of the story, it found widespread belief, although it was proved to be a pure invention: throughout the year 1918 there were no Germans in Suippes, where the alleged incident took place, the village having been in the possession of the French, behind the Allied lines, during the time in question.

Red Herrings and Generalities

When the American propagandist wants to hide something and draw off the public's attention in another direction, he uses the "red herring" device, by giving undue emphasis and publicity to details or facts irrelevant to the case. As an example, let us consider the American propaganda toward South American public's attention from the imperialistic designs of the United States. In most cases, the red herring was a trumped-up charge of "Nazi subversive activities." The flood of news about the province of Patagonin which, according to American propaganda, was on the verge of becoming a German colony in 1940, demonstrates the application of this device. On the whole, it has worked only too well to confuse the South Americans.

The "glittering generalities" device is also part of the technique of confusion and diversion practiced by the American press, radio, and other media of propaganda. Generally accepted principles, stock phrases, truisms, popular slogans, etc., are emphasized in order to carry the propagandist's point, although the actual facts and details of the case may have little or nothing to do with the general terms referred to. Much of the propaganda designed to build up "democracy" is based on "glittering generalities," which are typical ingredients in most of Roosevelt's utterances. What else could it be but an application of this device when Roosevelt speaks about "freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion," or when "equality" is stressed as a basic American principle, although it has not stopped the Americans from discriminating against Orientals, Negroes, Labor representatives, and other "undesirable" elements?

Smearing the Villain

The negative counterpart to the "glittering generalities" device is the "smearing" device, extensively used in American politics. A notable example was the smearing of Upton Sinclair, who ran for Governor of California in 1934 on a liberal platform that threatened the introduction of social reforms and income-tax laws, extremely disagreeable to the vested interests. An American journalistic observer characterized the "smear" campaign carried on by the newspapers and the movie industry to cause his ultimate defeat as follows: "Had Sinclair been one tenth the villain or fool he was painted, the psychopatic officers would have had him years ago, if the Department of Justice had not nabbed him first .... It probably was the most vicious, felonious and reprehensible campaign ever conducted against a political candidate."

In the same way, the Lindbergs, father and famous son, were violently "smeared" because they opposed American intervention during the first and second World Wars respectively. Lindbergh Sr. was "smeared" as being sympathetic to Germany and virtually branded a traitor because in 1915 he had warned President Wilson that "speculations and loans in foreign fields are likely to bring us into war. ... The war-for-profit group has counterfeited patriotism." The same tactics were used against Lindbergh Jr. when he tried to succeed where his father had been defeated. He, too, was "smeared" as a friend or even an agent of Germany, largely by playing up the fact that he had received a decoration from the German Government in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of world aviation. Lindbergh had received similar medals from practically every government in the world; nevertheless, the incident suited the "smear" propagandists perfectly. In this case, the device works by playing up insignificant details which, torn out of their context, are likely to damage the person or group attacked.

(To Be Continued)

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